

# INFORMATION REPORT

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UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Prior to 26 May 1951, the old five-story barracks building, 100 x 80 meters, just east of the Tilsit (55°04'N/21°40'E) railroad station was occupied by a Soviet tank unit. Troops wearing black uniforms with black epaulets and tank insignia were seen in the billeting area. Tanks were repeatedly seen on the street leading past the installation. They had 5 large disk-shaped bogie wheels, 1 drive wheel and 1 idler wheel per side; a track width of about 3 meters; a chassis about 6 meters long; a hull with flatly sloping sidewalls and rounded-off corners, a turret mounted on the forward part of the hull and projecting beyond the circular track. No commander's cupola and a main gun without muzzle brake, not projecting far beyond the bow. The tanks were painted dark green and had a numerical designation on either side of the turret.
2. A Soviet repair shop was located on the north side of former Deutsche Strasse, opposite the municipal theater and just west of a church in the northern corner of Tilsit. It consisted of 1 large and 2 small workshops and 1 parking station. Tanks of the type described in Paragraph 1 were repeatedly seen there. \*
3. Prior to 1951, a very large number of artillery pieces, either covered with canvas or standing out in the open, were seen in a fenced area just north of Palmetten (55°02'N/21°52'E), in the angle formed by the road and the railway line from Tilsit to Koenigsberg (54°40'N/38°05'E). The artillery pieces, all of which seemed to be of one type, were of from 100 to 120 mm, with exceedingly long barrels and 2 wheels per gun. Small groups of soldiers engaged in fatigue duty at various places in the ordnance park. The artillery pieces appeared to be new and well preserved. They did not seem to belong to a troop unit. \*\*

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4. Several rough wooden bunkers and a small house occupied by soldiers wear-

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heavy AA guns were emplaced on top of Pogeger Hill, about 4 km north-northeast of the western railroad bridge. There was a water tower on the top of the hill.

5. The only military unit observed in Kelme (55°38'N/22°53'E), Lithuania, until October 1950 was a unit of an undetermined number of soldiers wearing blue uniforms and red bands on their caps. The unit was equipped with armored reconnaissance cars and trucks, and was occasionally committed against partisans. Members of the 1931 class were registered for the draft in Kelme in the fall of 1950 and, if they were considered fit for military service, inducted at once.
6. [redacted] the occupation of the four barracks installations near the railroad station of Tilsit. However, it was rumored that the barracks installations west of the railroad station quartered a Soviet tank division prior to the beginning of May 1951. A large number of Soviet soldiers wearing red collar patches were seen in the streets of the city.
7. Members of the 1928 class from Tilsit were summoned to report for registration in Koenigsberg in March 1950. Those draftees who were classified as fit for military service were inducted at once without being permitted to return home. It was rumored that the 1929 and 1930 classes would be called up in the fall of 1950. \*\*\*
8. A Soviet engineer unit from Insterburg (54°36'N/39°25'E) was seen practicing on the water at Heydekrug (55°20'N/21°22'E) in May 1951. The unit was equipped with two types of amphibious vehicles: the first type seated 25 to 30 men, ran on 6 wheels, and mounted a propeller at the stern as was seen when the vehicle was moving along the road; the other type seated only about 10 men and had only four wheels. None of the amphibious vehicles was observed to be armed.
9. Several private houses on Partisanenstrasse in Heydekrug were requisitioned and prepared for quartering 250 to 300 infantry troops in March 1951.

\* [redacted] Comment. Reports prior to the spring of 1948 by PWs indicate that components of the 28th Tank Div are stationed in Tilsit. A report mentioned a tank unit in the barracks installation east of the railroad station and an artillery unit in the installation west of the railroad station. Units also believed to be stationed in Tilsit included a motorized rifle regiment and, possibly, an AAA unit. [redacted]

\*\* [redacted] Comment. The information confirms previous Soviet ordnance depot at Palmetten south of Tilsit. [redacted]

\*\*\* [redacted] Comment. [redacted] that majority of the 1929 class was inducted in the spring of 1950. [redacted] the majority of the 1930 class plus the first contingents of the 1931 class in the fall of 1950. [redacted]

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